

NID DAT PRELIMS 2027

B.Des Mock Test Series

30 Full-Length Mock Tests · Answer Key · Worked Solutions

Tests	30 mock tests (Test 1 to Test 30)
Mode and time	Pen-and-paper style · 3 hours per test
Total marks	100 per test, no negative marking
Section A (30 marks)	22 objective questions: Q1-14 carry 1 mark each (14), Q15-22 carry 2 marks each (16)
Section B (70 marks)	4 subjective drawing and design questions: Q23 (15), Q24 (20), Q25 (15), Q26 (20)
Topics	Visualisation and spatial ability · logical and analytical reasoning · design awareness, colour, typography, craft and architecture · drawing, observation, design thinking, storytelling
Included for every test	Answer key for Section A, a worked solution for every question, and an approach plus marking rubric for each Section B question

About the pattern. NID has not published a detailed paper structure that I could confirm, and websites disagree. Reports agree on a 100-mark, 3-hour, pen-and-paper paper with no negative marking, an objective Section A worth roughly 20 to 30 marks (one site says 19 questions for 25 marks) and a subjective Section B worth roughly 70 to 80 marks. These mocks use 22 MCQs (30 marks) plus four subjective questions (70 marks). Others say the 2026 Prelims was drawing and design-thinking questions only, with the objective section removed, and that the objective section may or may not return. These mocks follow the first description because it covers both kinds of skill. If your paper turns out to be subjective only, use Section B of each test and ignore Section A. Prelims is a qualifier for shortlisting to Mains (Studio Sensitivity Test and In-Person Sensitivity Test), so it does not count in the final merit list as per current reports. Check the official NID Admissions Handbook 2027-28 at admissions.nid.edu for the final pattern.

These are original practice questions, not official NID papers.

MOCK TEST 8

Time: 3 hours · Maximum marks: 100 · No negative marking

SECTION A - Objective (30 marks): Q1-14 carry 1 mark each, Q15-22 carry 2 marks each

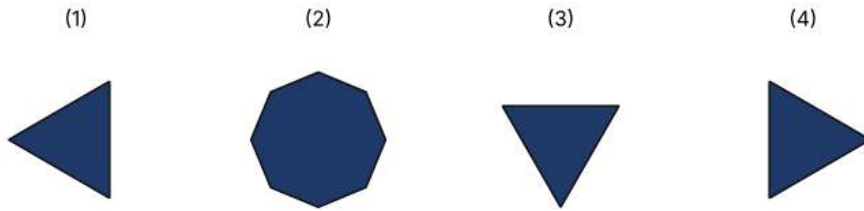
1. Pattachitra is a traditional scroll painting of [1 mark]

- (1) Goa (2) Karnataka (3) Himachal Pradesh (4) Odisha

2. Find the next term of the series: 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, ? [1 mark]

- (1) 83 (2) 81 (3) 82 (4) 80

3. Which figure is the odd one out? [1 mark]



4. In a queue, Meera is 12th from the front and 14th from the back. How many people are in the queue? [1 mark]

- (1) 25 (2) 26 (3) 2 (4) 27

5. The 'rule of thirds' is a guideline used in [1 mark]

- (1) Choosing paper size (2) Composition of images and layouts
(3) Mixing colours (4) Selecting fonts

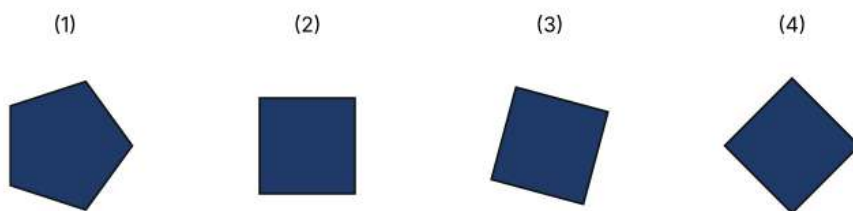
6. Of 120 design students, 32 like sketching, 41 like clay modelling and 13 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

- (1) 61 (2) 60 (3) 107 (4) 47

7. Which of the following is NOT an element of design? [1 mark]

- (1) Harmony (2) Line (3) Shape (4) Texture

8. Which figure is the odd one out? [1 mark]



9. Find the figure that continues the series. [1 mark]

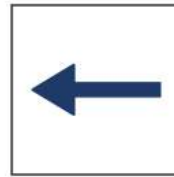
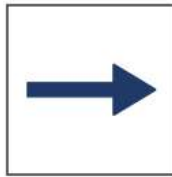


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



10. Which Indian city is known as the 'Blue City'? [1 mark]

(1) Ajmer

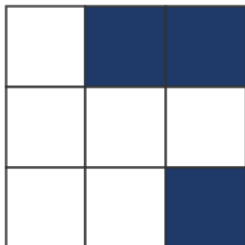
(2) Jaipur

(3) Bikaner

(4) Jodhpur

11. The figure shown is rotated 90° clockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [1 mark]

Given figure

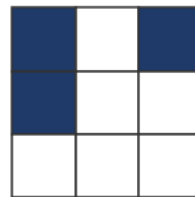
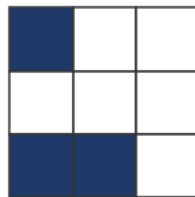
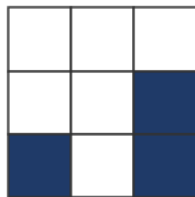
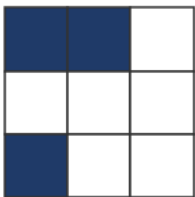


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



12. Find the figure that continues the series. [1 mark]



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



13. Which of the following is a principle of design? [1 mark]

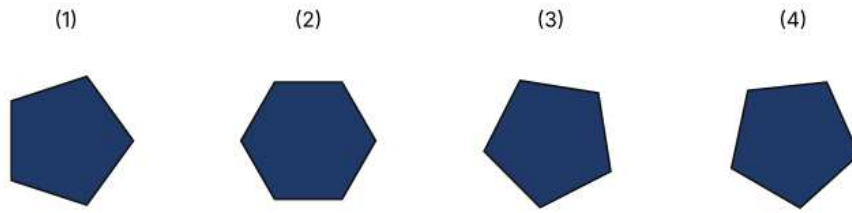
(1) Form

(2) Line

(3) Texture

(4) Contrast

14. Which figure is the odd one out? [1 mark]



Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

15. A square sheet of paper is folded once (in half) and 1 hole is punched through all layers as shown. How many holes will the sheet have when fully unfolded? [2 marks]

Sheet after folding,
with punched holes



- (1) 4 (2) 2 (3) 3 (4) 1

16. Find the next term of the series: 49, 64, 81, 100, 121, ? [2 marks]

- (1) 145 (2) 146 (3) 143 (4) 144

17. Looking at the solid from the bottom edge of the plan (front view), how many unit squares of the front elevation are visible? [2 marks]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

4	1	0
0	1	3
0	4	0

- (1) 12 (2) 11 (3) 10 (4) 13

18. Find the figure that continues the series. [2 marks]



- (1) (2) (3) (4)



- 19.** A 25 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 1 : 4. The longer piece measures [2 marks]
 (1) 25 cm (2) 13 cm (3) 5 cm (4) 20 cm
- 20.** A 64 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 3 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]
 (1) 24 cm (2) 33 cm (3) 40 cm (4) 48 cm

- 21.** Find the figure that continues the series. [2 marks]



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



- 22.** Which material is traditionally used for Channapatna toys? [2 marks]

(1) Wood (2) Brass (3) Clay (4) Cloth

SECTION B - Subjective (70 marks): answer all four questions on separate sheets

23. Using only a triangle, a triangle and a circle (you may repeat, resize or overlap them), build three different characters or objects that could belong in a scene of a village well. Add simple lines, patterns or textures to finish each. Give each one a one-line caption. [15 marks]

24. Problem solving. A single teapot must be shared by many users in a public place (such as a railway station or a school). (a) List three ways it could be misused or damaged. [4 marks] (b) Sketch a design that prevents or reduces these problems. [10 marks] (c) Explain in 3 to 4 lines why your design is sustainable and who benefits. [6 marks]

25. Storyboard. In six panels (no words, or at most two words per panel), tell a short story set at a bus stop in the rain that begins calmly and ends with pride. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]

26. Poster. Create a poster on the theme 'Festival of lights' for a general audience on an A4-sized frame. Use at most three colours (purple, yellow and white). Include one strong central image, a short slogan (maximum 6 words) and a border or pattern. [20 marks]

Marks: Q23 = 15, Q24 = 20, Q25 = 15, Q26 = 20. Use A4 sheets for each answer.

Mock Test 7

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	1	5	4	9	1	13	2	17	4	21	3
2	2	6	3	10	2	14	2	18	4	22	3
3	2	7	4	11	2	15	3	19	4		
4	2	8	2	12	2	16	1	20	3		

Mock Test 8

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	4	5	2	9	3	13	4	17	2	21	3
2	2	6	2	10	4	14	2	18	1	22	1
3	2	7	1	11	2	15	2	19	4		
4	1	8	1	12	1	16	4	20	3		

Mock Test 9

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	4	5	3	9	3	13	1	17	1	21	1
2	3	6	4	10	2	14	2	18	1	22	1
3	2	7	3	11	3	15	2	19	3		
4	4	8	3	12	2	16	4	20	2		

Mock Test 10

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	4	5	1	9	3	13	3	17	2	21	2
2	2	6	1	10	4	14	4	18	4	22	3
3	1	7	4	11	3	15	4	19	2		
4	3	8	3	12	1	16	3	20	1		

Mock Test 11

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	2	5	3	9	1	13	3	17	1	21	1
2	4	6	4	10	3	14	1	18	1	22	1
3	1	7	3	11	4	15	2	19	1		
4	1	8	2	12	1	16	2	20	1		

Mock Test 12

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	3	5	4	9	2	13	2	17	1	21	3
2	1	6	4	10	1	14	3	18	2	22	3
3	2	7	3	11	4	15	4	19	4		
4	2	8	1	12	1	16	3	20	1		

Mock Test 13

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	1	5	1	9	4	13	4	17	4	21	1
2	3	6	3	10	3	14	1	18	4	22	1
3	3	7	1	11	2	15	1	19	2		
4	2	8	4	12	2	16	2	20	1		

Solutions - Mock Test 8

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (4) - Odisha

Pattachitra (cloth-based scroll painting) is from Odisha and West Bengal.

Q2. Answer: (2) - 81

The terms are the squares 16, 25, 36, 49, 64. The next square is $81 = 81$.

Q3. Answer: (2)

Three figures are triangles (3 sides). Figure (2) has 8 sides, a octagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q4. Answer: (1) - 25

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = $12 + 14 - 1 = 25$.

Q5. Answer: (2) - Composition of images and layouts

It divides a frame into a 3×3 grid; placing key elements on the lines or intersections makes the composition more balanced.

Q6. Answer: (2) - 60

Students who like at least one = $32 + 41 - 13 = 60$. Neither = $120 - 60 = 60$.

Q7. Answer: (1) - Harmony

Elements are the building blocks (line, shape, form, colour, texture, space, value). Harmony is a principle of design.

Q8. Answer: (1)

Three figures are quadrilaterals (4 sides). Figure (1) has 5 sides, a pentagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q9. Answer: (3)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 180° , 225° , 270° , 315°). The next angle is $315^\circ + 45^\circ = 0^\circ$, which is option (3).

Q10. Answer: (4) - Jodhpur

Many houses in old Jodhpur are painted blue.

Q11. Answer: (2)

Rotate the whole grid 90° clockwise: the top row moves to the right column, so every shaded square moves one quarter-turn about the centre. Rotating the other way, by 180° , or flipping (mirror) gives the other options. Only option (2) matches a pure 90° clockwise turn.

Q12. Answer: (1)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 0° , 90° , 180° , 270°). The next angle is $270^\circ + 90^\circ = 0^\circ$, which is option (1).

Q13. Answer: (4) - Contrast

Principles describe how elements are organised: balance, contrast, emphasis, rhythm, unity, proportion. Line, texture and form are elements.

Q14. Answer: (2)

Three figures are pentagons (5 sides). Figure (2) has 6 sides, a hexagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q15. Answer: (2) - 2

Each fold doubles the layers punched through. The sheet is folded once (in half), so 1 hole(s) in the folded sheet go through 2 layers. Unfolding gives $1 \times 2 = 2$ holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q16. Answer: (4) - 144

The terms are the squares 49, 64, 81, 100, 121. The next square is $144 = 144$.

Q17. Answer: (2) - 11

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 4, 4, 3. Sum = 11.

Q18. Answer: (1)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 90° , 0° , 270° , 180°). The next angle is $180^\circ - 90^\circ = 90^\circ$, which is option (1).

Q19. Answer: (4) - 20 cm

Total parts = $1 + 4 = 5$. One part = $25 \div 5 = 5$. The larger share = $4 \times 5 = 20$.

Q20. Answer: (3) - 40 cm

Total parts = $3 + 5 = 8$. One part = $64 \div 8 = 8$. The larger share = $5 \times 8 = 40$.

Q21. Answer: (3)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 45° , 315° , 225° , 135°). The next angle is $135^\circ - 90^\circ = 45^\circ$, which is option (3).

Q22. Answer: (1) - Wood

Channapatna (Karnataka) toys are lacquered wooden toys.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Look for hidden objects inside the shapes: a triangle can become a head, wheel, sun or fruit; a triangle can be a body, roof or box; a circle can be a hat, flag or beak. Combine them so each drawing reads clearly at a glance. Keep all three drawings in the setting of a village well (e.g. a figure holding an umbrella, a bus, a lamp-post). Fill with patterns (dots, stripes, scales) rather than adding new shapes.

Criterion	Marks
Creative, recognisable use of the given shapes only	6
Variety across the three drawings	4
Detail, pattern and texture	3
Captions linked to the scene	2

Q24 (20 marks). Approach:

Think of the teapot in rough public use: heavy use, theft, weather, dirt, children. Pick materials and forms that resist these (durable, repairable, fixed down, easy to clean). Show your idea with a main sketch plus one detail view. For sustainability mention locally available materials, long life, repair rather than replacement and low cost, and say who gains (users, maintenance staff, the environment).

Criterion	Marks
Realistic misuse list	4
Design response that clearly addresses the list	10
Sustainability and benefits reasoning	4
Clarity of sketches and notes	2

Q25 (15 marks). Approach:

Plan the story in one line first: setup, a small surprise, a turning point and the result (pride). Use panel 1 as a wide shot to show a bus stop in the rain, panel 3 or 4 as a close-up of a face or hand, and a high angle for the turning point. Keep one recognisable character (same clothes or shape) in every panel, and make each panel readable without text.

Criterion	Marks
Clear beginning, middle and end	5
Variety of viewpoints and framing	4
Character/expression clarity	3
Neat, consistent panels	3

Q26 (20 marks). Approach:

Brainstorm 5 quick thumbnails for 'Festival of lights' and pick the one with the simplest, boldest idea (a single symbol works better than a crowded scene). Place the image at the centre or on a rule-of-thirds point, and put the slogan in clear, large lettering above or below. Use purple for the main shape, yellow for emphasis and white for lettering and outlines. Finish with a repeating border or pattern that echoes the theme.

Criterion	Marks
Strong central concept linked to the theme	7
Composition and hierarchy (image, slogan, border)	5
Colour use within the limit	4
Lettering and finish	4